

**Town of Royalston
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2006
7:00 pm**

Present: Werner Bundschuh, Chairman; Thomas Kellner, Clerk; and Andrew West, Member.

1. Chairman Bundschuh called the meeting to order.
2. The minutes of the 3/7/06 meeting were read. Mr. West made a motion to accept the minutes as read, with Mr. Kellner seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a) The Board recognized the unexpected death this past weekend of John Kirkman, former Selectmen and long-time town resident. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to send a letter of condolence to Mr. Kirkman's family. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
 - b) Mr. West made a motion to approve a request from Gary Winitzer to distribute and display advertising matter in town for the upcoming election per the town bylaw. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - c) The Board is in receipt of a copy of a letter sent to the Athol Planning Board from the Royalston Planning Board regarding the proposed Grandview Acres subdivision off Chestnut Hill Ave. The letter states that as abutters, the Royalston Planning Board wishes to participate in any hearings on this subdivision, that they have heard many concerns from citizens, and that they have environmental issues. Also, Mr. West will respond to a letter received from Pat Jackson relating to this subdivision on behalf of the Board.
 - d) Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve a request from the First and Second Congregational Churches for use of the Town Hall on 5/14/06 from 6 a.m. to noon for a Mother's Day Breakfast. The usual fee will be charged. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - e) Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve a request from Beth Gospadarek to borrow 30 chairs from the Town Hall on 3/25/06 for a fundraiser for the Athol Royalston Educational Foundation. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor.
 - f) Mr. Kellner reported on a letter he received from the Corps of Engineers regarding the proposed swimming beach at Tully Lake. The Corps had their engineer do a preliminary design, with an estimated total cost of the project at \$212,000. The letter stated that the Corps has no funding for this project at the current time. Mr. Kellner was charged with looking into possible funding sources.
 - g) The mileage reimbursement rate issue was revisited and a discussion was held. There were no changes made at this time.
 - h) Mr. West made a motion to sign a form to certify that the town has adopted the NIMS Emergency Management System. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

- i) Mr. West made a motion to approve a request for a leave of absence for police officer Robert Maki and to review the status of the leave every 30 days as recommended by Chief Deveneau. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting in favor.

4. Department Head Reports:

a) DPW –

- 1) Keith Newton reported that he and Vyto Andreliunas went to the district office recently to view data collected on Route 32 in the 1980's. He will send a letter to request a copy of this information.
- 2) Mr. Newton asked if the Board had reconsidered the hiring of a temporary DPW worker into an available permanent position. He said that he hoped the Board would hire him so that he could receive the benefits of the old union contract. He has been employed in the department since 7/1/05. Mr. Bundschuh said that he would ask town counsel for an opinion. Mr. West felt that the town should have a policy clarifying which benefits are considered retroactive.
- 3) Mr. Bundschuh reviewed the current grievance procedure. A hearing on a pending grievance was scheduled for 4/4/06 at 9:00 p.m. at the next meeting. A letter will be sent to Rodney Cleveland, the union steward and Mr. Tuttle regarding this hearing.

b) Board of Assessors –

- 1) Mike Lajoie from the Assessors reported that a town meeting might be necessary to determine if excess funds should be spent, transferred to the reserve fund, or written off. If the money is not spent, the tax rate will go down. Mr. Bundschuh stated that the Board would make a decision they see the rate. He also recommended that the Finance Board be notified.
- 2) Mr. Lajoie stated that his Board has decided to stay out of the tree issue.

- c) Zoning Bylaw Task Force – Vyto Andreliunas stated that he would like to finalize the date for the Kick Off Meeting on 4/4/06 at 7:00 p.m., to be sponsored by the Selectmen. All town officials will be asked to participate. Helen Divoll will be asked to send out invitations.

5. Old Business:

- a) 8:00 p.m. – Emergency Planning Session: Discussion was held on the town's current emergency planning status. Phil Leger said that he is under planning deadlines that are tied to funding. Keith Newton said that there is an Emergency Plan on file with the state. Mr. Leger said that this plan is supposed to be reviewed and updated every year. He suggested that the appropriate department heads attend a working meeting. Mr. Bundschuh recommended that the Board direct Wayne Newton, Emergency Management Coordinator, to hold a planning session and to provide them with copies of the current emergency plan. Mr. Leger will send more detailed information to Mr. Bundschuh, and a letter to Mr. Newton will be drafted.
- b) Phil Delorey, CDBG Grant: As requested by Mr. Delorey, the Board signed a revised Community Development Strategy and also an Interlocal Agreement for the CDBG grant application packet.

6. New Business:

- a) The Board set the date to open the Annual Town Meeting warrant for 4/4/06. The warrant will close on 4/18/06.
 - b) Mr. Kellner reported on correspondence he received from Bill Meehan, Chairman of the Veteran's District Committee, which points out possible improprieties by the Veteran's Agent as follows: she has not filled out forms required in order for money to be expended for veteran's benefits; she has not filed certain forms with the Treasurer; and she may be over billing for transportation costs.
 - c) Mr. Bundschuh has called contractors to look at the roof at the Raymond School. One contractor will work up an estimate for the removal of the shingles, which are filled with asbestos. He hopes to have the information in time to submit an article for the annual town meeting warrant.
7. The Treasury Warrant was signed.
8. Mr. Kellner made a motion to go into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, #5, Investigation of Charges of Criminal Misconduct or to Discuss Filing a Criminal Complaint and #3, Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner, yes; Mr. Bundschuh, yes; and Mr. West, yes.
9. Mr. West made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded via audiotape by Diana Newton.

